



## Buroker Takes National Award for Work at DATCP

**Release Date:** 9/15/14

**Contact:** Donna Gilson  
608-224-5130, [donna.gilson@wi.gov](mailto:donna.gilson@wi.gov)  
Jim Dick, Communications Director  
608-224-5020, [jim.dick@wi.gov](mailto:jim.dick@wi.gov)

*Editors note: A jpg headshot of Susan Buroker is attached.*

MADISON – Susan Buroker, Assistant Deputy Secretary at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, has received a national award for her work in the agency after rising through the ranks from temporary clerical assistant to third in command.

Buroker received the Douglass-Irvin Administration Award, presented by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Sept. 13 during its annual meeting in Burlington, VT, “for outstanding work within a state agency to improve operations and efficiency.” The association presents the award to one person each year.

In nominating her, department Secretary Ben Brancel said, “Sue Buroker is a long-time DATCP employee who rose through the ranks to her current post – the third highest in the agency – because she has always been the go-to person who executives, managers and staff could rely on to get things done. Sue’s work ethic and initiative have greatly contributed to the overall professionalism throughout the entire department.”

“This is an unexpected honor,” Buroker said. “I’ve been lucky to work under some great leadership, with the support of executives who really know their fields, and with the help of staff who are dedicated to their work. I’m grateful to Secretary Brancel for having enough confidence in me to appoint me to posts where I hope I’ve been able to do some useful work.”

Initiatives she has led include:

- Construction of a new state-of-the-art facility to house the department’s plant, environmental and food safety laboratories
- Implementing the state’s livestock premises registration law
- Promoting use of GIS (geographic information systems, combining mapping with information from agency databases) and establishing the state’s first GIS coordinator position

In addition, she is overseeing a major technology change that will put all state department licenses, permits, registrations, inspections and enforcement evaluations online, and leads DATCP’s efforts in the State Transforming Agency Resources (STAR) project, which will connect state government’s dozens of computer systems into one comprehensive system.



*Sue Buroker accepts the Douglass-Irvin Administration Award Sept. 13 from Secretary Ben Brancel, left, and Chuck Ross, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture and NASDA president.*

## BUROKER – ADD ONE

She also serves on the Governor's Information Technology Executive Steering Committee, which establishes IT policies and standards for state agencies. She serves on the Governor's Homeland Security Council and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors.

Buroker has served under four secretaries and four governors. Her career at DATCP began in 1990, when she was hired as a temporary clerical assistant in the Bureau of Budget and Finance. She moved up steadily in temporary posts until being hired for a permanent job as office manager in the Office of the Secretary in 1994, with responsibilities including the operating budget, personnel, and training. When Brancel joined the agency in 1997 for his first term as Secretary, he appointed her to be administrator of the Management Services Division, which houses human resources, information technology, budget and finance, and laboratory services. For nearly two years, she served as human resources director at the same time. When Brancel returned to lead DATCP again in 2011, he appointed her Assistant Deputy Secretary. She is simultaneously serving as administrator in Management Services.

"Our agency, and state government, have changed greatly in the past 24 years, of course," Buroker said. "We've streamlined, with the help of technology that's grown by leaps and bounds in that time. The events of September 11 changed all of our professional lives, because we realized the importance of planning for emergencies, especially when we work in such a critical sector as agriculture. We've dealt with a list of issues that changes every year – identify theft and scams, animal diseases, food safety threats, environmental risks.

"But when it comes down to it, the issues are about the lives of people in Wisconsin, and it is people – our staff – who try to meet the challenges. I've tried to keep that in mind every day."

###

Connect with us at [facebook.com/widatcp](https://facebook.com/widatcp) and [twitter.com/widatcp](https://twitter.com/widatcp).